DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 308 927 PS 018 061

AUTHOR Jacka, Brian
TITLE Personality and Adult Perceptions of Childhood Dreams.
PUB DATE 88
NOTE 8p.; Paper presented at the Australian Developmental Conference (5th, 1988).
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adults; *Cognitive Processes; *Early Experience; Foreign Countries; *Personality; *Recall (Psychology)
IDENTIFIERS *Australia; *Dreams; Extraversion Introversion; Jung (Carl G)

ABSTRACT

This study used adult recall of childhood dreams to test Cann and Donderi's (1986) findings that Jungian intuitives recall more archetypal dreams than do sensate subjects, and that introverts recall more everyday dreams than extraverts. It was hypothesized that since dreams recalled from childhood are relatively high in archetypal content, there should be differences between the perceptions of childhood dreams by adult intuitives and sensate subjects, but no differences between introvert and extravert subjects. Participants were 67 volunteer final-year early childhood teacher-training students, each of whom completed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator as a personality measure, and a Childhood Dream Questionnaire (CDQ). All subjects but one were female. Scores on the Intuition-Sensation and Introversion-Extraversion dimensions were correlated with CDQ item scores. In accord with the hypotheses, significant correlations were found with respect to Intuition-Sensation scores, and none for the Introversion-Extaversion dimension. (RH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

PERSONALITY, AND ADULT PERCEPTIONS OF CHILDHOOD DREAMS

ED308927

PS 018061

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Brian Jacka
Melbourne College of Advanced Education
Institute of Early Childhood Development

ABSTRACT

Cann and Donderi (1986) found that Jungian 'intuitives' recall more archetypal dreams relative to 'sensate' subjects, and that 'introverts', compared with 'extraverts' recalled more 'everyday' dreams. This study tested these findings using adult recall of childhood dreams. It was hypothesised that, as dreams recalled from childhood are relatively high in archetypal content, there should be differences between the perceptions of childhood dreams by adult intuitives and sensate subjects, but no differences between introvert and extravert subjects. Subjects were final year teacher-training students, each of whom completed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator as a personality measure and a Childhood Dream Questionnaire (CDQ). Scores on the Intuition-Sensation and Introversion-Extraversion dimensions were correlated with the CDQ item scores. In accord with the hypotheses, significant correlations were found with respect to the Intuition-Sensation scores, and none for the Introversion-Extraversion dimension.

RATIONALE AND AIMS

Cohen (1970) in a review of studies which related personality variables to frequency of dream recall, concluded that the research was conflicting in its findings and that a surprisingly minor amount of variance in frequency of dream recall had been accounted for by variables of theoretical importance. More recent studies, in addition to introducing further personality variables, have broadened the range of aspects of dream recall that have been correlated with personality dimensions. These include sensory and emotional dream imagery (Spanos, 1980), vividness and recency (Kluger, 1975) and 'archetypal' and 'everyday' dream content (Cann and

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Brian Jacka
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Donderi, 1986). In this latter study, drawing on the distinction made by Jung between the collective unconscious and the personal unconscious, Cann and Donderi hypothesised that Jungian 'intuitives' would recall more archetypal (collective) dreams relative to subjects classified as 'sensates', and that 'introverts' compared with 'extraverts', would recall more everyday (personal) dreams. The results of the study supported the hypotheses.

This study tested the findings of Cann and Donderi by relating the same personality variables to adult perceptions of childhood dreams. Jung attaches importance to childhood dreams, stating that "the longer the dream remains spontaneously in the memory, the greater is the importance to be attributed to it" (Jung, 1961, par.475). Kluger (1975) found that the earliest remembered dreams manifested significantly higher levels of 'archetypal' content than 'recent' dreams. Consistent with the finding by Cann and Donderi, it was therefore hypothesised that adult recalled childhood dreams, containing higher than normal archetypal content, would be responded to differentially by subjects higher and lower on the Intuition-Sensation dimension, this difference being evidenced by significant correlations between perceptions of childhood dream experiences and Intuition-Sensation scores. Additionally it was hypothesised that since adult recalled childhood dreams are relatively lower in 'everyday' content, there would be relatively lower levels of correlation between perceptions of childhood dreams and scores on the Introversion-Extraversion scale.

Jungian personality topology

Jung (1921/1971) proposes two broad dimensions of personality: direction of psychic energy (libido) flow, and functions or processes of the psyche. The direction of psychic energy flow can be outward, wherein the person directs attention towards people and things in the external world, and is referred to as extraversion. Alternatively the person can direct psychic energy inward, focusing attention on internal experiences and processes. This direction is labelled introversion. There are four functions or processes of the psyche: the opposites of intuition and sensation, and the opposites of thinking and feeling. Intuition refers to the perception of relations and possibilities in events and situations at an unconscious or subliminal level, and is at the other end of a continuum from sensation which involves the perception of phenomena directly through the senses.

Thinking refers to the organisation and judgement of experience on the basis of logical reasoning and contrasts on a continuum with feeling which refers to the organisation and judgement of experience on the basis of values, likes and dislikes. Within the topology of the personality the four processes are organised into a superior function, an inferior function, and two auxiliary functions.

METHOD

Instruments

Two instruments were used in the study: the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and a Childhood Dream Questionnaire. The MBTI is a forced-choice, self-report inventory that enables the measurement of preference strength on Jung's three personality dimensions: Extraversion-Introversion, Sensation-Intuition and Thinking-Feeling. The MBTI also includes a Judging-Perceiving function, however this was not used in the study since it does not form part of Jung's topology. The MBTI has been used extensively as a measure of these Jungian personality dimensions and its measurement qualities have been reviewed by Carlyn (1977).

The Childhood Dream Questionnaire assessed adult perceptions of childhood dream activity using semantic differential type items. The semantic differential technique (Osgood et al, 1957) involves rating a concept on a set of bipolars. In this instance, the concept of 'my childhood dreams' was rated on twenty one bipolars such as: good - bad, ugly - beautiful, calm - agitated, and worthless - valuable, with each being rated on a six point scale. The bipolars were selected on the basis of their perceived relevance as descriptors of dream activity from a larger list of bipolars field tested by Osgood (et al).

Subjects

Subjects were 67 volunteer students undertaking the final year of their three-year early childhood Diploma of Teaching course at the Melbourne College of Advanced Education. All subjects but one were female.

Procedure

Each subject completed first the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and then the Childhood Dream Questionnaire. The MBTI was scored on a continuous basis so that subjects received a numerical score for each of the three

dimensions on a continuum between the extremes of each dimension. These scores were then correlated with the scores on each of the items in the CDQ using the Pearson product moment coefficient.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows that there were no significant correlations found between Introversion-Extraversion scores and perceptions of childhood dream

---

TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE

---

activity. The lowest p level obtained for the 21 correlations was 0.15. With respect to the Intuition-Sensation dimension, four correlations with p levels below 5 per cent were found. Subjects with scores closer to the Intuition extreme of the scale viewed their childhood dreams as more beautiful, more valuable, more pleasant and more passive. A further four items had correlations with p levels between .056 and .097, suggesting a tendency for subjects with scores closer to the Intuition extreme to see childhood dreams as softer, more sacred, nicer and brighter.

DISCUSSION

The results provide support for the hypotheses. In a set of 21 bipolar scales, it can be expected that there would be one significant correlation at or below .05 level by chance alone, and approximately two correlations by chance with significance levels up to 0.1. In fact, the number of correlations between Intuition-Sensation scores and childhood dream perceptions with values less than 5 per cent and 10 per cent were 4 and 8 respectively - well in excess of chance expectations. The correlations indicate that subjects scoring towards the Intuition end of the scale perceived childhood dream activity differently from subjects scoring towards the Sensation end of the scale. On the other hand, there were no apparent differences in perception of early childhood dreams by subjects high and low on the Introversion-Extraversion personality dimension. The study thus lends support to the findings obtained by Cann and Donderi.

This study differs in a number of respects from that of Cann and Donderi.

The focus of this study was upon childhood dreams as examples of archetypal dream content, and information was elicited through questionnaire. Cann and Donderi studied current archetypal dream experiences, and these were recorded in diary form. In addition, the two studies assessed differing aspects of dream activity. Cann and Donderi included such variables as the number of dreams, the proportion of archetypal dreams, length of dream report, the number of settings in dreams, the number of dream characters, the number of creatures in dreams, and vividness. The aspects of dream perception that were measured in this study differed, in the main, from the types of information sought by Cann and Donderi. The fact that the two reports, with quite different approaches to studying dream activity, reinforce each other suggests that they both may be dealing with a relationship of substance between personality and dream activity that is worthy of further study.

At the same time, a caution needs to be given in relation to the results. Bone (1968) found a moderate but significant correlation between frequency of recall and extraversion for a sample of women, but an almost zero correlation for men. Cann and Donderi used a sample of 30 which was largely female (22 out of 30). This study had a sample of 67 of which 66 were female. It is desirable, in order to test the role of gender as an interacting variable, that replications take account of this factor.

REFERENCES

Bone, R.N. (1968) 'Extraversion, neuroticism and dream recall'. Psychological Reports, 23, 922.

Cann, D.R. and Donderi, D.C. (1986) 'Jungian personality topology and the recall of everyday and archetypal dreams'. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 50, 5, 1021-1030.

Carlyn, M. (1977) 'An assessment of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator'. Journal of Personality Assessment, 41, 461-473.

Cohen, D.B. (1970) 'Current research in the frequency of dream recall'. Psychological Bulletin, 73, 433-440.

Jung, C.G. (1961) Freud and Psychoanalysis (2nd ed. Collected Works, Vol.4, Bollingen Series XX). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Jung, C.G. (1971) Psychological Types. (Collected Works, Vol.6, Bollingen Series XX). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press (Originally published 1921).

Kluger, H.Y. (1975) 'Archetypal dreams and 'everyday' dreams: A statistical investigation into Jung's theory of the collective unconscious.' Israel Annals of Psychiatry, 13, 6-47.

Osgood, G.E., Suci, G.J. and Tannenbaum, P.H. (1957) The Measurement of Meaning. Ubana: University of Illinois Press.

Spanos, N.P., Stam, H.J., Radtke, H.L., and Nightingale, M.E. (1980). 'Absorption in imaginings, sex-role orientation, and the recall of dreams by males and females.' Journal of Personality Assessment 44, 3, 277-284.

TABLE 1 - Pearson r correlations and p levels, between perceptions of childhood dreams and introversion/extroversion and intuition/sensation personality dimensions.

	ITEM	Introversion/ Extroversion r	p	Intuition/ Sensation r	p
1.	Good - bad	-.064	.304	.110	.187
2.	Large - small	.018	.442	-.154	.105
3.	Ugly - beautiful	-.039	.378	-.216	.039
4.	Hard - soft	.070	.286	-.125	.155
5.	Strong - weak	.059	.320	-.145	.120
6.	Calm - agitated	.034	.394	.068	.291
7.	Worthless - valuable	.091	.236	-.221	.037
8.	Loud - soft	-.013	.457	-.196	.056
9.	Deep - shallow	-.072	.283	-.097	.219
10.	Pleasant - unpleasant	-.103	.206	.226	.033
11.	Black - white	-.003	.489	-.064	.303
12.	Sad - happy	-.010	.467	-.066	.293
13.	Ferocious - peaceful	.113	.183	-.149	.114
14.	Light - heavy	-.004	.489	.031	.401
15.	Profane - sacred	.126	.163	-.171	.089
16.	Rich - poor	.088	.240	.036	.386
17.	Clear - hazy	.038	.382	-.073	.280
18.	Hot - cold	-.130	.151	-.112	.184
19.	Awful - nice	.026	.419	-.172	.082
20.	Bright - dark	-.103	.205	.174	.080
21.	Active - passive	.068	.294	-.220	.037